

Pop culture reviews, claimed archival "finds," Colleen Shogan's confirmation, libraries/librarians under attack, corporate pride, labor rights, and beyond!

This fourth newsletter of 2023 will focus on articles/posts about archives, libraries, genealogy, history, LGBTQ+ people, anime, animation, labor conditions, and more.

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Shizuku Tsukishima, one of the protagonists of the 1995 film, Whisper of the Heart, famously has a conversation with her dad (a librarian), who talks about how the library he is working in is transitioning from paper to digital. But she prefers paper.

Hello everyone! I meant to publish this newsletter late last month, but it is being published early this month instead. My last three newsletters (on April 2, Feb. 25, and Jan. 14) have also been published on the Internet Archive [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). I wrote

[a guide](#) to the SAA (Society of American Archivists) election this year, which has since ended, [criticized](#) mass document shredding in *Kiff* and examined the reality of record destruction, [analyzed](#) terrible records management in *Tangled*, [told the story](#) of my fifth cousin five times removed Sophia Packard (who was in a relationship with another woman), [examined](#) the interconnection of The Collector (in *The Owl House*), indigenous repatriation, and archival ethics; and [highlighted](#) a few declassified documents to describe China-Taliban relations and Chinese fears about Uighur guerillas. I also have written reviews for *Pop Culture Maniacs* on three series since April 2nd ([Ippon Again!](#), [Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur](#), [RWBY](#), and [Villainous](#)) and one film: [Justice League x RWBY: Super Heroes and Huntsmen, Part 1](#). Apart from that, on my *Pop Culture Library Review* blog, I wrote posts on various topics, whether on [Japanese voice actors](#) who bring fictional librarians to life, [examining](#) student librarians in anime, [analyzing](#) fictional library institutions, [noting](#) fictional Arab and Muslim librarians, fictional librarians [of Asian descent](#), and listing recently added titles of shows with libraries or librarians that I watched [in March](#) and [in April](#). With that, let me get on with the rest of my newsletter.

Starting with archives, there was recently a [“revelation”](#) by Jonathan Eig, in a new book entitled *King: A Life*. He found that the famed criticism Martin Luther King Jr. made of Malcolm X was fabricated, as he came across an unedited transcript of the full interview that Alex Haley did of Martin Luther King Jr., which was “likely typed by a secretary straight from a recording”, at the Haley archives at Duke. He later shared this with other King scholars, with the changes jumping out to them as “a real fraud”, with scholar Peniel E. Joseph saying that this is not “really surprising or shocking, but it’s

bad,” and added with this we have more clarification about how certain media wanted to pit them against each other and use Dr. King as a cudgel against Malcolm.” What is not mentioned is the role of archives. My guess is that that what Eig is talking about is a record within “[Sound Recordings, 1960-1988 and undated](#)” or “[Radio TV Services records, circa 1937 - 2012](#)” collections at Duke University Libraries. I asked Duke Archives about this on Twitter and will let you know if I hear back. I may write a letter to the editor criticizing the framing of the article as Eig “finding” the information, as it was only there because someone organized it for him.

Even more important is [the confirmation](#) of Colleen Shogan by [a 52-45 vote](#), with Senators Shelley Moore Capito, Lisa Murkowski, and Susan Collins, while Kristin Gillibrand, Bernie Sanders, and Tommy Tuberville did not vote. It is not clear why Tuberville, a person who [favors](#) legislators having stocks, introduced a measure which [pushed](#) for cryptocurrency in retirement accounts, has [made](#) racist remarks, complained the debt ceiling deal didn’t go “far enough”, was contacted by ‘Rump [during](#) the Capitol riot, [supported](#) objections to electoral votes for Biden in Arizona and Pennsylvania, [praised](#) the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, [opposed](#) same-sex marriage, co-sponsored bill [banning](#) trans soldiers, [stated](#) that he supports White nationalists in the military, is strongly anti-abortion, and anti-immigrant, voted the way he did.

Sanders and Gillibrand may have abstained from voting due to their support for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) (see [here](#) and [here](#)). As *Bloomberg Law* [described](#), Shogan faced criticism for saying she’d “decline to publish the Equal Rights Amendment in the Constitution if she took the role,” stating in a February hearing that the archivist’s job is to “publish constitutional amendments once they’ve been properly ratified,” not be

a decider. The ERA Coalition [criticized](#) this position back in September (when she re-stated in another hearing), although David Ferriero [had taken the same stance](#). Despite my disagreement with Shogan on this topic, I still believe that her confirmation is [a net positive](#). I previously wrote, in my last newsletter, about Shogan, noting “her confirmation hearings are currently in process, with some reactionary people [questioning](#) her social media posts or [classified documents](#), while she pledged to address a backlog [which stood](#) in the way of veterans getting benefits”. Before that, I [said](#) in November 2022 the following:

...Shogan, for her part, said she was committed to more transparency, opening Civil Rights cold cases (an issue [supported by Jon Osoff](#))....[she stated that] she was [nonpartisan](#) and [nonpolitical](#), and noted commitments to transparency, efficiency, and so-called “public private partnerships”. She said reducing the backlog of requests for veteran records as the “[most important discrete problem](#)” facing her if she is confirmed as the archivist...Shogan [stated](#) that “the Archivist serves in the capacity, in a nonpartisan, apolitical capacity.” She also [noted](#) that NARA will need to “find creative ways to become more efficient, to capitalize upon public-private partnerships, and to engage previously underserved communities in meaningful ways”. This is in line with what David Ferriero has done when he served as archivist from November 2009 to April 2022.

Shogan assumed the position [on May 17th](#), and said her first priority is addressing the backlog of veterans records. Personally, I don’t believe there will be some massive sea change at NARA as a result, but it is a net positive, as stated earlier.

Otherwise, there have been articles about how preservation matters [more than ever](#) in the age of streaming (I can’t agree more), the Society of American Archivists urging [consideration and respect](#) for proper records management in government (in light

of recent mishandling of classified documents), and [an intriguing post](#) about *The Owl House* by Sam Cross. She focuses on The Collector and reported Archivists in the show's final season, going a completely different direction than [I went](#). Some of my favorite parts are when she noted that the show's archivists are in line with the show's "larger narrative about categorization and institutional power," and how diaries are historical records which historians and archivists are familiar with. Diaries, along with personal correspondence and journals, are often the "only means of understanding a historical figure's thoughts or gaining insight into the daily lives of groups often left out of the historical record" but they may be inaccurate. When reading this, I am reminded of emotional imprint of letters, memory, obsolescence, trauma, and remembrance within *Violet Evergarden*, *Violet Evergarden: Eternity and the Auto Memory Doll*, and *Violet Evergarden: The Movie*. Posts about all of these will be on my *Wading Through the Archival Stacks* blog early next year (the posts have been scheduled).

Otherwise, I am reminded of reviews by Cross on archivists/archival themes in *The Last Letter from Your Lover*, *Bendy and the Ink Machine*, and [YouTube videos](#) which are accidentally archival. There are additional articles on digitization workflows when it [comes to documents](#), how use of web sources [fosters](#) collaboration for archives, National Archives plans [outlining](#) a commitment to lower "greenhouse gas emissions and become better stewards of the environment", digital image processing of historical maps [at the Library of Congress](#) (LOC), Louisiana Sheriffs [violating](#) public records laws, a judge ordering Washington State private special education school to [turn over records](#), new Pentagon rules [keeping](#) many military court records secret; the work of the LOC Preservation Services Division (PSD), which [is responsible](#) for a "huge portion" of

the digitization of millions of pages of books, newspapers, and microfilm frames each year, and [public versus private](#) status of records (and archives).



Nagisa Kubo looks at Junta Shiraishi (who she likes) in an episode of Kubo Won't Let Me Be Invisible, with Junta studying in the school library and Kubo later joining him.

There are a lot of articles about libraries to share this week, whether on North Dakota considering a ban on library books [deemed](#) “sexually explicit”, [negative](#) impact of Ron DeSantis on Florida education, U.S. homeless crisis [turning](#) librarians into de facto social workers, LOC’s Cultural Heritage Analytical Reference Material (CHARM) [collection](#), Manatee County researchers [covering up](#) classroom books because they fear persecution, [exploring](#) trauma-informed librarianship, [ethical](#) acquisitions in academic libraries, school librarians [vilified](#) as “arm of Satan” in book banning efforts, [suspension](#) of digital library in Orange County due to complaints from parents about “offensive” books, students and parents [fighting](#) to save NYC’s imperiled school

libraries, [backlash](#) to Vermont University proposal to make their library all-digital, and exploration of innovative community libraries [of Korea](#).

There are further articles about publishers [wanting](#) to end how libraries lend books online, [an interview](#) with Seongryeol (Ryan) Park (foreign law intern at LOC), [more](#) fun with call numbers on the new 'Shelved' TV show, [adventures](#) in cataloging, [work](#) of women of color in libraries, libraries [continuing](#) to have a vital role even in the digital age, [why](#) we need librarians (for information literacy), [firing](#) of Erie librarian after objecting to cancellation of "programs on racism and LGBTQ+ youth", stories of impact and connection in relation [to Black librarianship](#), New York City's [first Black librarian](#) (Catherine Latimer), libraries facing attacks but [not](#) like "Freedom Libraries" of 1964, public libraries [becoming](#) a political background, strain of censorship [on public libraries](#), University of Washington librarians going on strike [for the day](#), Michigan residents [voting](#) to defund public library over its LGBTQ books, and examination of sex, sexuality, and queerness [in Library of Congress Classification](#).

Additional articles focused on related subjects. This included the FBI and ARF [helping](#) with "Little Free Library" (they aren't libraries, but subpar book-dumping grounds primarily for well-off White people) explosion investigations, [making](#) the most of your MLIS, examining [how](#) much book sale data is confidential, the power [of zines](#), [retaining](#) collections which are high need but have "low demand", book banners weaponizing [legitimate resources](#), and a [presentation](#) by Myrna Morales and Stacie Williams on moving toward transformative leadership, naming and identifying epistemic supremacy. Others talked about reactions/thoughts/questions while watching *Sandman* TV series, bike libraries [increasing access](#) to bikes across the U.S., being an MLIS/MLS student

[with no](#) library work experience, [how](#) research libraries “ensure trustworthiness in times of need”, and information on Michele T. Fenton’s *Little Known Black Librarians Facts* blog about [Hallie Beachem Brooks](#), [The Howard Branch](#) of the Chattanooga Public Library, [Annette Hoage Phinazee](#), and [Andrew Venable Jr.](#), to name a few. There were illustrations about libraries as well, whether in Sophie LaBelle’s [Serious Trans Vibes](#) (called *Assigned Male* elsewhere), or [in The Nib](#).

I’m switching gears and talking about the subject of genealogy. Most pertinent is my newest social media account, on Mastadon, on genealysis.social. I just created it on May 9th, and my username on there is [historyhermann](#). I have another for my work as an archivist on glammur.us at [burkelythearchivist](#). Otherwise, there were posts about [a professor](#) claiming she is Indigenous when she admitted she is actually White (the equivalent of the Cherokee Princesses lie again), Beloit College [presenting](#) Mrs. Packard (about my ancestor Elizabeth P.W. Packard) as its final production of 2023, and the Slavery Remembrance Program “[tracing lives](#), families of Africans, Native Americans who were enslaved by Harvard leaders, labored on campus”. There are, on a somewhat related note, articles in *Genealogy* magazine [about](#) studies of critical settler family history, [writing](#) about family history, motivations of multiracial people [to assert](#) their ancestries, primacy of family genealogy [to “situate](#) burial, spectrality, and ancestry”, [negotiating](#) marital separation in “the Cavendish-Talbot Family c.1575–90,” and the complexity of family history [in “the context](#) of colonial pasts in British India,” a [contribution](#) to understanding women’s history; memories, [family secrets](#), and “the mental health archive,” to name a few.

There were other articles providing a [“basic introductory survival guide”](#) to FamilySearch Catalog, or on [finding](#) ancestors in Heir & Devisee Papers 1797-1854, Irish [migration](#) to Derry Canada, ships and steerage [experienced](#) by Irish people, tracing a British seamen [in the Royal Navy](#) before 1853, comparing historic newspaper [websites](#), a [review](#) of John Mancini’s *Immigrant Secrets*, [researching](#) enslaved ancestors, and a post about an ancestor [with](#) an alias. Otherwise, there was a *Family Tree* magazine [claiming](#) to highlight “must-see” genealogy TV (even though most of the shows are trash), along with more helpful ones like [asking](#) whether brick walls even exist in genealogy at all (also see [here](#)), [places](#) to uncover the burial of an enslaved or emancipated ancestor, the reported value of the [genealogical proof standard](#) (which can only be fulfilled if someone has enough privilege to do so), nine kinds of ancestor death records to [look for](#), [value](#) of Black cemeteries, and [top ten tips](#) to finding your ancestors. On an interesting note, *Atlantis: The Lost Empire* and its sequel, *Atlantis: Milo’s Return*, has a character named [Mrs. Packard](#) or Wilhelmina Bertha Packard. As a “elderly, sarcastic, chain-smoking radio operator.” She is nothing like my Packard ancestors, although it would be fascinating to find someone like her one day.

This brings me to new [History.gov hub](#) for NARA, [hidden history](#) of women in the industrial revolution, Arlington Cemetery [removing](#) its racist Confederate monument, highlighting [those](#) afraid of Black Cleopatra, Coke-a-Cola money and public relations of higher education divestment [from apartheid](#), the first Asian-American [screenwriter](#) (Onoto Watanna), siege of Wounded Knee was a [beginning](#) of renewed Indigenous resistance, how [the K-9](#) was a “product of a new America” rather than a relic of the Old South (as civil rights activists stated) since police dogs had been used in Baltimore

since the 1950s, and increasingly by the 1960s, with many police departments stilling have such units which “continue to hurt people,” and America’s [failure](#) with desegregation. Others focused on Cleopatra’s daughter and other important [figures](#) of the multicultural Roman Empire, pundits [needing](#) a refresher in people’s history, Ford Administration [efforts](#) to silence Frank Church, U.S. government [censoring](#) the photos of Japanese concentration camps taken by Dorothea Lange, determining why Harry Truman [supported](#) Israel despite private anti-Semitic rhetoric, and [how](#) a little-known anti-Vietnam protest still reverberates.

Further history topics include problematic [memorializing](#) of presidents, a [1868 speech](#) from an expelled Black Georgia legislator, when truly stolen elections changed “the [course](#) of American history,” the real [crisis of work](#), [preserving](#) the public history of the Fort Pillow Massacre, the history of the Colfax Massacre as the “largest single [attack](#) on Black people’s democratic rights,” the death penalty marching [on unabated](#) despite popular opposition, [examining](#) the movement against the Iraq War, the “[human rights legacy](#)” of Jimmy Carter, and FBI [release](#) of Bill Russell’s file. Otherwise, there were articles on who is [to blame](#) for lousy transit systems, U.S. Colored Troops [killed](#) in Olustee Florida still owed a “proper burial”, confronting [the “roots](#) of American-style fascism in one family’s history”, the problem with not treating former Presidents [like ordinary citizens](#), the [enslaved ancestors](#) of Robert E. Lee, and [when](#) a leading evangelist held a revival to thwart labor.



Koito watches a Betamax tape featuring her mother, her grandmother, and the elf she is a shrine maiden for in a touching scene of the recent episode of Otaku Elf

There were articles on how the John Birch Society “[radicalized](#) the American Right,” how attacks on justices are [nothing new](#), how to get Americans to “[embrace](#) constitutional amendments again,” the brutal sex trade [and U.S. military](#) presence in South Korea, [history](#) of the debt ceiling, [how](#) William Casey delayed the release of Iran hostages to help Reagan, authors calling for [a rethink](#) of motherhood and birth, [lessons](#) of the welfare rights movement, Carolyn Woods Eisenberg “[on Nixon’s war deceptions](#),” and how Biden’s [deployment](#) of troops to “the border is historical norm, not [an] exception.” There were further posts on [unclear](#) legislative response to proposed reparations in California, [the first](#) South Asians in British North America, how buried footage [helped](#) Chicago police “get away with killing 10 labor activists in 1937,” and the first campgrounds “[took](#) the city to the wilderness.”

Apart from the focus on history are articles on environmentalism and climate. *In These Times* noted the [pollution cleanup](#) from abandoned oil wells, while there were article excerpts in *History News Network* on toxic sludge [in the Great Lakes](#), and how meat and masculinity are a “[new Culture War front](#).” The latter makes me think of papers I [wrote](#) in college about meat production, the [ethics](#) of moral vegetarianism, and many other related topics, as I had only recently become a vegetarian at that point. Otherwise, there were newsletters digging [into methods](#) of getting the wealthy to change their behavior in an effort to help the planet (even if such an approach seems foolhardy), and environmental justice [and bodily autonomy](#). Also of note are articles on [a call](#) for climate policy to “return to land reform” and criticizing *An Inconvenient Truth* for showing “missing opportunities” [to act](#) on climate change.

Just as important are articles on the blog *Environment, Law, and History* [about Charles Dickens](#), Kafka, and environmental law; scholarship [trends](#) in international environmental law, [merchants of doubt](#), climate change leveraging [legacy](#), [postmodernism](#) and environmental policy, the [traditional](#) “founders” and climate change, past and future of “[public utility](#)”, and stone age [environmental law](#). On the other hand, *The Nib* has illustrations on [COVID-19](#) and climate change, [climate response](#), and [untold](#) “benefits” of climate change. There were interesting articles about how fishing fleets [contribute significantly](#) to microplastic pollution, sound causing serious damage to seagrass and other structures [in the ocean](#), the [problem](#) of using the term “invasive species”, and the [reasons why](#) the healthiest forests are on Indigenous land across the world. The worst news this week, on this topic, was the Supreme Court’s [decision](#) in

Sackett v. EPA to weaken the Clean Water Act, allowing polluters to build in additional wetlands, turning back decades of established law.

I'd like to move to a different topic: LGBTQ+ people. There were [posts](#) on Target's [removal](#) of such merchandise, after selling it [for years](#), despite some saying that the company protects [its employees](#), which seems to be giving into terrorists. As Erin Reed [stated](#), actions by Bud Light and Target show hypocrisy of "corporate pride", writing the following, which rings true:

Bud Light and Target came under far-right fire for including LGBTQ+ people in products and advertising. The speed at which they caved shows why LGBTQ+ people have warned about corporate pride...It actively damages the community by feeding a narrative that suggests LGBTQ+ individuals are not worth protecting...The campaign against LGBTQ+ inclusion in stores is not grassroots, but rather a calculated move by the same far-right influencers responsible for the early anti-trans bills this year...What followed was mass harassment and violent threats to LGBTQ+ advocates and store employees...The speed in which some companies are caving to anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment shows the danger in entrusting Pride events to the care of corporations, who have no meaningful skin in the game and who are willing to pull support at moment's notice...Instead of hastily retreating in the face of even a fraction of the hatred endured daily by the LGBTQ+ community from these same individuals, these corporations need to show resilient support.

Apart from this, some wrote on social media about [polyamory and queer identity](#), and how [a majority](#) of gender affirming care bans are not "coming from grassroots movements in states but rather external pressure from lobbying orgs like the Alliance Defending Freedom" Otherwise, there were articles on [declining](#) LGBTQ+ representation in TV ([summarizing](#) this GLAAD report), the joy of [queer friendship](#),

Twitter [removing](#) its 2018 ban on deadnaming and misgendering trans people, the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ Asians [in the U.S.](#), the [queer origins](#) of *The Little Mermaid*, the [shameful](#) “echoes of the 1950s Lavender Scare” at the present, TikTok [tracking](#) “users who watched LGBTQ+ videos,” and Tennesseans [fighting back](#) against the ban on drug shows in the state.

There were other articles of interest on *Jedi: Survivor* [having](#) “a canonically queer major character” (but it you would not “know from playing it), rightful [argument](#) that due to the transphobia from J.K. Rowling it is “up to the fans to leave the Wizarding World behind,” the 15 Best LGBTQ+ Movies ([according to Them](#)) to “Stream on Prime Video” (of these, I’ve only seen *I Am Not Your Negro* and *But I’m A Cheerleader*), [report](#) on gay and bisexual representation in the 118th Congress, a pansexual filmmaker [showing stories](#) with neurodivergent and neurotypical actors, the [harm](#) of the “you just haven’t met the right person yet” comment for aspec (asexual spectrum) people, the paid agreements GLAAD signed paid agreements with streaming platforms to “review their content at the development stage” with Fabrice Houdart [suggesting](#) that there be “transparency on the contracts between GLAAD and streaming services”, [need](#) for good governance and oversight in LGBTQ+ organizations, and Pope Francis [saying](#) homosexuality is not a crime.



*When a teacher, who is standing in as a librarian, tells your friend that she is taking her freckles “way too seriously”. This is a scene from the film, *Whisper of the Heart**

To change gears again, I’d like to talk about stories in the world of anime. There were either of [fanart](#) of [Bocchi](#) from *Bocchi the Rock!*, the [danger](#) of making a teenage protagonist “too likable or relatable in their “immature” phase” (in relation to what happened to one of the protagonists of *Love Live! Superstar!!*), queerness in *Sailor Moon* (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)), and [organizing](#) Love Live! characters by hairstyles. Others posted on various other topics such as [kissing](#) of the two female protagonists in *Sakura Trick*, [first look](#) of yuri TV anime *Hoshikuzu Telepath*, an [official](#) Yohane anime logo in English, [announcement](#) of original *Girls Band Cry* anime, and a love confession [of sorts](#) in *Kizuna no Allele*. Also of note were [recommendation](#) of various series with yuri themes (*MagiRevo*, *RWBY*, *Harley Quinn*, even though the latter two are NOT anime in the slightest), optimism toward [BanG Dream! It's MyGO!!!!](#), Crunchyroll [acquiring](#) *I'm in Love With the Villainess* anime (premiering in October),

[premiere](#) of *Bocchi The Rock!* compilation film for spring 2024, and [YuruYuri](#).

Furthermore, on social media some argued that Sailor Moon is bisexual (see [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)) based on her interactions with male and female characters during the run of the series (and in *Sailor Moon Crystal*), something which also made its way into posts on *Medium* (see [here](#) and [here](#)) and [CBR](#).

Apart from yuri manga (and anime) [recommendations](#) and listing of what was [said to be](#) the top yuri anime couples in 2022, *Anime Feminist* had articles on femme rebellion in Japanese [lolita fashion](#), the joyful affirmation of [plus-sized leads](#) in yuri, how *Kiki's Delivery Service* is an empowering [coming-of-age tale](#) of self-discovery, the [subversion](#) of moe by *Higurashi* and the birth of modern yandere, *Akiba Maid War* and the “rare [representation](#) of disabled joy,” and the [history](#) of magical boys in *PreCure*, to name a few. Others wrote on the [greatest](#) shonen friendships between girls, [answering](#) why yuri is popular right now (the simple answer is that “yuri has always had the potential to appeal to many different kinds of people...and cultural momentum is on its side”), a [review](#) of *My Love Story with YamadaKun at Lv999*, anime [recommendations](#) for Winter 2023 (of these I've only seen *Ippon Again!*, *MagiRevo*, but not the others), and anime fans [praising](#) trans representation in *Skip and Loafer*.

There were articles on whether Haruka and Michiru, in *Sailor Moon* (first appearing in *Sailor Moon S*), were viewed as lesbians [in 1990s Japan](#), a [post](#) on *The Lies We All Tell*, queer magic of Studio Ghibli and “[her](#) ‘fight’ for representation”, spring 2023 anime [picks](#) (I've only seen *Yuri is My Job!*, *Birdie Wing*, *Kizuna no Allele*, *World Dai Star*, *Kuma Kuma Kuma Bear*, *Otaku Elf*, *Alice Gear Aegis Expansion*, and *Tokyo Mew Mew New*, and one episode of *The Witch from Mercury*), neurodiversity [in anime](#)

(specifically Violet Evergarden and Kageyama Tobio), [the best](#) anime couples, and Japan's Self-Defense Force Band [performing](#) “Uma Musume songs at Tokyo racecourse.”

With that, I’m pivoting to animation. There were calls to release “[everything](#) as physical media” ([related](#) to a scene in a [recent episode](#) of *The Ghost and Molly McGee*) the fact that Rose Quartz’s [death](#) in *Steven Universe* was “at least partly suicide,” [Pixar films](#) that were passion projects by Asian directors (*Turning Red* and *Elemental*), plus-size/fat characters [in](#) *Steven Universe*, top indie projects [you should](#) look forward to ([from](#) Indie Animation Network), and Ian Jones-Quartey noting that *Steven Universe* was greenlight [in early 2013](#) and in full production by 2013. I also learned about [possible airing](#) of *Nimona* on “independent chains or venues play select Netflix movies” and Showcase and/or Curzon in the U.K., and [upcoming](#) animated films. Others on social media posts [criticizing](#) *Nimona* for not having Nimona as a fat character, the [success](#) of Indie Animation Day, [arguing](#) that there is always a “small but loud section of viewers who dont know what theyre talking about”, [cast](#) of *Hailey’s On It!* (and [criticism](#) of White people for voicing POC characters), possible [release](#) of *Primos* in June, the loss of “production assets (design, boards, animatics etc)” of episodes 4-12 [of Onyx Equinox](#) because of “how they archived it” (Sofia Alexander [later](#) recommended backing up “all your stuff and don’t count on anyone else to do it”), the terrible explanation for the “credits fuck-up” [by Max](#), hope that characters in the *Totally Spies!* [are gay](#), and Olan Rogers [getting](#) the license to write a *Final Space* graphic novel [which](#) can be pre-ordered.

Other animation-related news of note includes June 30 [release date](#) of *Nimona* (on Netflix), Disney [removal](#) of series from Disney+ and Hulu (luckily *Little Demon* is the [only](#) animated series on the list, to my knowledge), the [merger](#) of Hulu and Disney+ later this year, which will undoubtedly affect the animation landscape, Ashley Nichols on [developing](#) *Far Fetched*, [review](#) of *A Piece of Cake* (a short yuri animated film), interview [with](#) Avi Roque of *The Owl House* (which recently ended), and the [complicated](#) LGBTQ+ history of Disney. Some wrote [on 15 queer cartoons](#) to watch for fans of *The Owl House* (of these, I've watched *The Legend of Korra*, *Steven Universe*, *Danger & Eggs*, the new *She-Ra*, *Adventure Time*, *Kipo*, *OK K.O.!*, *Magical Girl Friendship Squad*, *The Dragon Prince*, *Dead End: Paranormal Park*, *The Legend of Vox Machina*, *Star Trek: Lower Decks*, *Harley Quinn*, and *Arcane*, but not *Pinecone & Pony*), the set-up for a possible season 2 of *Moon Girl* [at the end of season 1](#), removal of [various](#) animated series from HBO Max (before it became Max) by the end of this month, and thoughts on indie animation from Jocelyn Saravia ([part one](#), [part two](#), and [part three](#)).

There were additional articles on a new Amazon animated series by Ramy Youssef “including Alia Shawkat, Mandy Moore, [and] Chris Redd” [entitled](#) *#1 Happy Family USA* which is about a Muslim-American family that “must learn how to code-switch as they navigate the early 2000s: a time of fear, war, and the rapid expansion of the boy-band industrial complex,” cartoon industry misconceptions [you may be getting wrong](#), *The Owl House* [marking](#) “the end of an era for Disney Channel” (in the words of Jade King), yuri talk about *Bumblebee/Bumbleby* ([part 1](#) and [part 2](#)), insights [from](#) [Bertrand Todeskio](#) about building a career as an in-demand character designer in

Hollywood, animation studios which [are approved](#) under SAG-AFTRA, and [the time](#) that Hayao Miyazaki (director of films such as *Castle in the Sky*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Princess Mononoke*, *Spirited Away*, *Ponyo*, *The Wind Rises*, and this year, *How Do You Live?*) did not show up for his Oscar as a protest against the Iraq War (and other news).

The latter sentence is a nice segway into my next topic: workers, unions, labor rights, and the like. Scalawag [wrote about](#) the “unsightliness of labor at the Blanton's 'Day Jobs'”, while the WGA had an ongoing hub [for the writer's strike](#) which has been going on since May 2nd (it is the largest interruption to production of films and television in the U.S. since the COVID-19 pandemic and the largest labor stoppage since the 2007-2008 writers' strike). There were further articles [on power, and betrayal](#), of “cross-ethnic solidarity in the 1903 Oxnard Beet Strike,” H-2A's systemic issues [resulting](#) in “catastrophic violations” (which is hurting migrant workers), rally in College Park by student worker groups [to raise the minimum wage](#) and the right to unionize, University of Michigan administration busting unions and politicians [trashing](#) higher education, [the fact](#) that wins at Starbucks and Amazon shouldn't “obscure the hard road independent unions face,” and a post from People's CDC [about](#) worker safety. Apart from the [mass walkout](#) against unethical fees at a major science journal, there are [reports](#) that only a third of U.S. workers can work-from-home, ERA Coalition pushing for action [on pregnant](#) worker fairness, and Ukrainian laws [stripping](#) worker's collective bargaining rights. Ukraine has never been a leftist paradise as some seem to claim it is, as some have praised reported “advances” in LGBTQ+ rights and the like. I also saw websites [about solidarity](#) for freelance writers and [guidelines](#) for who can join the National Writers Union. I may join the latter, but I haven't completely decided at this point.



When your librarian-dad thanks you for bringing him his lunch. This is also from Whisper of the Heart, the film which I showed an image of earlier in this newsletter.

With that, I move to the final part of this newsletter before the section noting illustrations in *The Nib*. In this section, I'll be bringing in topics which don't go neatly into any other section of this newsletter. For one, there were those calling for people to [watch Nimona](#) and [Otaku Elf](#), highlighting a *Bocchi the Rock* [spinoff manga](#), [criticizing Deadpool 3](#) for filming during the [writer's strike](#), and condemning BuzzFeed for declaring that AI [will develop](#) "diverse" content for them. Secondly, there were stories on how Mary Wollstonecraft's diagnosis of the prejudices [holding back](#) girls' education remains relevant, what [a lack](#) of premium grocery stores says about disinvestment in Black neighborhoods, the movement [to "stop"](#) dollar stores from suffocating Black communities," and how Pew Research Center [will "report"](#) on generations moving forward." Thirdly, were reports of growing negative views of Russia, and [more favorable views](#) of Ukraine and NATO, among Americans, but "50% of Americans wanted to focus

on domestic troubles” rather than international issues, along with positive views [of childhood vaccines](#), important [value](#) in family time “than other aspects of life”, and younger workers expressing lower levels [of job satisfaction](#) than older people. Articles focused on West Virginia Governor’s coal empire again “[sued by the federal government](#)”, publicly funded but privately run schools in New York State are being “allowed to punish and discriminate [against students](#) by calling in emergency services,” and the [conscription system](#) of South Korea.

Further articles focused on topics such as improving the usability of organizational [data systems](#), three approaches to “[documenting database migrations](#)”; preservation, insight and growth “[through](#) literary modernizations,” the invasion of privacy [caused](#) by home security cameras, the meaninglessness of [Myers Briggs](#) personality test, and the Webb telescope [detecting](#) carbon dioxide on a planet outside the solar system. Just as important to note are articles on [protecting yourself](#) against email fraud, how social isolation [can have](#) a negative impact on the incarcerated (and those re-entering society), economic espionage laws [in selected countries](#), the [rise](#) of Booktok, performing Whiteness (as [noted](#) by April Hathcock), a systematic method for “identifying references to academic research [in grey literature](#),” and the working conditions (and state) [of academic labor](#).

This brings me to the final part of this newsletter. Some drew fanart of *Totally Spies!*, made Love Live! [memes](#), and noted yuri manga [to be released](#) this month. More than that were the illustrations in *The Nib*, which will be, sadly, ending [in August](#). There were great illustrations about [colorful history](#) of Sunday funnies, red Earth used in [the graves](#) of one family for unknown reasons, treating gun violence as a public health issue

in order to [prevent it](#), the mysteries [of the deep sea](#), [unionization](#) of strippers (of all people to unionize), the [mothers](#) of Mother's Day, transgender [discrimination](#) and government transparency, and the continuing [pattern](#) of democratic regression.

Other illustrations focused on topics such as the faultiness [of everything](#) being “fully automated,” [labor rights](#), people [being scared](#) of the world around them, [argument](#) that U.S. efforts to lead Sudan to democracy led to war, [a message](#) from your local police department, the Black radical [you've never](#) heard of, and the [daring raid](#) of Harriet Tubman, to name some of the many illustrations out there.

That's it for this newsletter. Until next month, or maybe later this month. As always, comments and suggestions are welcome.

- Burkely